**Question 1:**

Dr. Clay Fuller, who testified on the hearing’s second panel, suggested that international anticorruption agreements such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) should be included in international treaties and trade agreements. As the agency responsible for the U.S.’ participation in UNCAC, does INL believe that including anticorruption agreements will strengthen global anti-corruption efforts?

**Answer 1:**

While each international trade agreement (ITA) should be negotiated on its own merits, as a general matter the Department supports the inclusion of anticorruption provisions in such treaties. The most recent ITA, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and a line of predecessors, cite UNCAC and other relevant multilateral anticorruption instruments and require parties to affirm their adherence to these treaties. Specific ITA anticorruption provisions target corrupt conduct closely tied to free and fair trade. While each anticorruption treaty has its own U.S.-supported review process to promote compliance, inclusion of the UNCAC and other treaties in ITAs helps underscore the importance of these conventions and their implementation.

**Question 2:**

The United States has a variety of financial and visa sanctions programs that target significant foreign narcotics traffickers and corruption. To what extent does the State Department engage with partner nations when imposing such sanctions?

**Answer 2:**

The State Department works closely with the Department of the Treasury to coordinate financial and visa sanctions with partner nations with similar authorities. The Department regularly meets with like-minded partners to coordinate sanctions actions and messaging, where appropriate. A good example of this coordination is the UK’s Global Anticorruption Sanctions regime. Since its inception, every UK designee except for one has been an individual also previously designated under a U.S. authority, such as the Global Magnitsky or Venezuela sanctions programs. While few partners have similar sanctions authorities to address drug trafficking, INL’s foreign assistance builds capacity of foreign law enforcement and strengthens our cooperation to bring transnational criminals to justice. INL manages the Narcotics Rewards Program (NRP) and Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program (TOCRP) in close coordination with U.S. federal law enforcement partners to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. These programs provide opportunities for information sharing and law enforcement cooperation with partner nations.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to**

**Hon. Todd D. Robinson, U. S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, by**

**Co-Chairman Chuck Grassley (No. 3 to No. 9),**

**U.S. Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control,**

**November 17, 2021**

**Question: 3**

You testified that the State Department’s anticorruption efforts in Mexico are broad and varied. Yet despite the U.S. providing more than $3.3 billion since 2008 to Mexico through the Merida Initiative, drug trafficking-related violence in Mexico remains high. As you know, Mexico is a significant producer of synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine and fentanyl, which are the largest contributors to record high overdose deaths in the U.S. To deal with the spike in violence and drug related crimes, Mexican President Lopez Obrador has increased the role of the military in policing. How does the State Department use taxpayer dollars to reduce the supply and flow of illicit drugs from Mexico?

**Answer: 3**

We are deeply concerned about transnational criminal organizations’ trafficking and production of illicit drugs in Mexico, often using Chinese- and Indian-origin precursors. INL supports and encourages improved efforts by Mexico to counter drug production and trafficking through technical expertise, training, and equipment donations. INL also funds a regional advisor from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) based in Mexico, who focuses on fostering international information sharing on synthetic drugs and precursors and strengthening cooperation between private industry and government authorities. INL also supports the North American Drug Dialogue to bring together officials from Mexico, the United States, and Canada to address regional drug challenges.

On October 8, I joined Secretary Blinken and other U.S. officials to deepen security cooperation through the High-Level Security Dialogue. At that dialogue, the United States and Mexico announced the Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities in which we committed to a series of goals – including a goal to disrupt the capacity of criminal organizations and their illicit supply chains, with a particular focus on drug laboratories and precursor chemicals used to produce these drugs. INL has several programs supporting the Dialogue’s deliverables, including the UNODC Container Control Programme, which will strengthen Mexico’s ability to interdict illicit precursor chemicals at ports, and a memorandum of understanding to address drug demand reduction.

**Question 4:**

Are funds allocated to the Mexican National Guard for policing and drug control efforts?

**Answer 4:**

Some National Guard members have participated in INL-funded training events, and the National Guard assumed control of equipment previously donated to the Mexican Federal Police. Should the National Guard request more comprehensive assistance, the Department will evaluate the opportunity to provide assistance in line with funding authorities, strategic objectives, and Leahy vetting requirements.

**Question 5:**

In your testimony, you mentioned that the State Department supports the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, including its flagship CRIMJUST program, contributing more than $29 million over the past five years to CRIMJUST programs in eight countries, including Mexico. How has that money been used to combat drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime?

**Answer 5:**

CRIMJUST efforts in Cabo Verde improved the capacity of law enforcement, resulting in an increase in drug seizures, arrests, joint investigations, and cooperation with international partners such as Brazil. CRIMJUST has also delivered training to officials from Mexico, Peru, Panama, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ghana, and Nigeria on addressing synthetic opioids trafficking via the postal service. In Mexico, CRIMJUST builds the capacity of law enforcement to investigate cases involving drug production and trafficking, serious and organized crime, and gender-based violence and enhances the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

**Question 6:**

For decades, the United States has been involved in efforts around the world to reduce corruption and promote the rule of law. What lessons have we learned in reducing corruption, and where are we going in the future?

 **Answer 6:**

A holistic approach – one that balances prevention and enforcement, promotes transparency, and empowers both internal and external oversight and accountability – is key to establishing effective anticorruption regimes. Coordinated use of all aspects of our toolkit (diplomatic engagement; multilateral efforts; foreign assistance; sanctions and visas actions; and collaboration with not only governments, but also business and civil society) is essential. In coordination within our Department and interagency partners, INL is committed to further deepening our understanding of and expanding on the evidence about what works and what does not work in anticorruption.

**Question 7:**

How do you all share information among federal agencies to coordinate anticorruption efforts?

**Answer 7:**

INL collaborates closely with a wide range of agencies in advancing its mission through foreign assistance programming, diplomatic engagement, and coordination of sanctions and visas restrictions. INL maintains close relationships, and in some cases detail arrangements, with other federal agencies and the bureau’s program design and diplomatic initiatives are informed by, and often implemented through, interagency efforts and input. Further to President Biden's National Security Study Memorandum-1, INL will consider with other agencies how to best modernize, coordinate, and resource efforts to fight corruption, including through enhanced information sharing in maximizing this whole-of-government approach.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to**

**Hon. Todd D. Robinson, U. S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, by**
**Senator Maggie Hassan (No. 10)**
**Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control**

**November 17, 2021,**

**Question 10:**

Chairman Whitehouse and I recently introduced the Not Allowing Revenue for Criminal Organizations (NARCO) Act. One key piece of the bill is providing resources, assistance, and training to other countries to so they can better counter drug cartels’ ability to launder money and finance their operations.

How can this kind of support that targets drug trafficking organizations’ ability to launder their money within these countries’ borders reduce drug trafficking into the U.S and work in concert with other anti-trafficking measures?

**Answer 10:**

Effective anti-money laundering (AML) assistance prevents drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) from exploiting the vulnerabilities in countries' AML regimes by strengthening regulatory frameworks and ensuring effective enforcement. These efforts complement traditional counternarcotics capacity building and law enforcement efforts, by targeting the financial resources that fund DTOs' transnational criminal operations. INL has increasingly invested in these areas and appreciates Congressional support in that regard. Consistent with the Secretary of State’s overall responsibility and authority for the direction and coordination of foreign assistance, INL partners with a range of U.S. government agencies and other organizations, to deliver program results most effectively.

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